AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 2A-2B. This sheet, which includes Figs. 2A-2B, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 2A-2B. In Figures 2A-2B, "prior art" has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 14, 2006. Claims 3 and 9 have been canceled. Claims 1-2, 4-8 and 10-26 are now pending. All previous arguments regarding previous claims are hereby withdrawn in view of the new claim language submitted herein.

The drawings have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Moreover, an IDS has been filed herewith.

Applicant hereby thanks the Examiners for the courtesy extended during the interview of July 25, 2006. The remarks below accurately reflect the substance of the interview.

Claim 1

Claim 1 stands rejected under Section 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Song. This Section 102(e) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 as amended requires "the at least part of boundary region overlapping the light-shield layer is a region permitting liquid crystal molecules surrounding the region to tilt so that ends of the liquid crystal molecules closer to the substrate having the light-shield layer go away from the boundary region in the area where the boundary region overlaps the light-shielding layer when a voltage is applied between the first electrode and the second electrode; a *protrusion in the boundary region for causing the liquid crystal molecules to tilt, and wherein the protrusion and the light-shielding layer overlap one another but are on opposite substrates*. For example and without limitation, Fig. 1 illustrates a protrusion (26) in the boundary region (33) for causing the liquid crystal molecules to tilt, wherein the protrusion (26) and the light-shielding layer (40) overlap one another but are on opposite substrates.

The Examiners acknowledged during the interview that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest this feature. In particular, Song fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid italicized

feature. In Fig. 12 of Song, the alleged protrusions 170-172 and light shield 110 are both on the *same substrate* (the CF substrate) – the opposite of what amended claim 1 requires (e.g., see Song at col. 9, lines 8-15). Thus, Song teaches directly away from the invention of claim 1.

Claim 8

Claim 8 requires that "the plurality of liquid crystal regions of the liquid crystal layer including a *first liquid crystal region of which the retardation value for light incident on the liquid crystal layer obliquely in a direction oblique from the normal to the liquid crystal layer increases with rise of an applied voltage and a second liquid crystal region of which the retardation value first decreases and then increases, at least one of the first and second liquid crystal regions being V-shaped*, wherein the device comprises a *light-shield layer selectively shading the first liquid crystal region, but not the second liquid crystal region, when the device is observed in the direction oblique from the normal to the display plane.*" E.g., see paragraph [0069] of the instant specification. For example and without limitation, Fig. 1 illustrates a first liquid crystal region (W2/31) of which the retardation value for light incident on the liquid crystal layer obliquely in a direction (D2) oblique from the normal (D1) to the liquid crystal layer increases with rise of an applied voltage, and a second liquid crystal region (W3/31) of which the retardation value first decreases and then increases. In Fig. 1, the light-shield layer (40) selectively shades the first liquid crystal region (W2/31), but not the second liquid crystal region (W3/31) when the device is observed in the direction (D2) oblique from the normal. Moreover, Fig. 1A also illustrates an example of the first and second liquid crystal regions (31) being V-shaped.

Song fails to disclose or suggest each of the aforesaid italicized features of claim 8. First, in Fig. 12 of Song no LC region(s) is/are V-shaped as required by claim 8. Second, in Fig. 12 of

Song, there is no light-shield layer that selectively shades the first liquid crystal region (where the retardation value for light incident on the liquid crystal layer obliquely in a direction oblique from the normal to the liquid crystal layer increases with rise of an applied voltage), but *not* the second liquid crystal region (where the retardation value first decreases and then increases) when the device is observed in the direction oblique from the normal to the display plane. Song is entirely unrelated to these two features of claim 8.

Again, the Examiners indicated during the interview that Song did not disclose or suggest these features of amended claim 8.

Claim 14

Claim 14 requires that "at least one of the first substrate and the second substrate has *at least one light-shield layer overlapping each of a first region and a second region in each of which liquid crystal molecules tilt in directions substantially parallel to the polarization axes of the pair of polarizing plates when a voltage is applied between the first electrode and the second electrode, and wherein each of the first region and the second region which are overlapped with the at least one light shield layer extend across a substantial part of the picture-element region*." For example and without limitation, see Figs. 17-18 and paragraph [0130]-[0131] of the instant specification. Song fails to disclose or suggest these features of claim 14.

Claim 22

Claim 22 requires "a *plurality of V-shaped boundary regions* in a picture-element region, the *V-shaped boundary regions separating the plurality of liquid crystal regions from each other*, and wherein at least one of the first substrate and the second substrate has *at least one light-shield layer overlapping a plurality of said V-shaped boundary regions, and where each V-shaped boundary region overlapping the light-shield layer(s) is a region permitting liquid crystal*

molecules surrounding the region to tilt so that ends of the liquid crystal molecules closer to the substrate having the light-shield layer go away from the boundary region in the area where the boundary region overlaps the light-shielding layer when a voltage is applied between the first electrode and the second electrode." For example and without limitation, see Fig. 1B of the instant application. Song fails to disclose or suggest these features of claim 22.

Claim 23

Claim 23 requires "a plurality of *substantially parallel boundary regions* in a picture-element region, the boundary regions separating the plurality of liquid crystal regions from each other, and wherein at least one of the first substrate and the second substrate has *at least one light-shield layer overlapping each of a plurality of said substantially parallel boundary regions*, and where *each boundary region overlapping the light-shield layer(s) is a region permitting liquid crystal molecules surrounding the region to tilt so that ends of the liquid crystal molecules closer to the substrate having the light-shield layer go away from the boundary region in the area where the boundary region overlaps the light-shielding layer when a voltage is applied between the first electrode and the second electrode*." For example and without limitation, see Fig. 1B of the instant application. Song fails to disclose or suggest these features of claim 23.

Claim 24

Claim 24 requires that the substantially parallel boundary regions in a picture element region are *V-shaped*. Song fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claim 24.

Claim 25

Claim 25 requires that the boundary region is *V-shaped*. Song fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claim 25.

Claim 26

Claim 26 requires that the light-shield layer is *X-shaped*. E.g., see Figs. 17-18 of the instant application. Song fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claim 26.

Conclusion

It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____
Joseph A. Rhoa
Reg. No. 37,515

JAR:caj
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100